

Borough of Washington, Warren County, New Jersey
Recreation Commission
Minutes
October 4, 2006

Call to Order

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Washington Borough Recreation Commission was called to order on Wednesday, October 4th, by Dawn Higgins, Chairperson, at 7:36 p.m. Also in attendance were Commissioners Candy DeFillippis, Rick Feldman, Terry Finnegan, Angela Frye, Angela Wallace and Park Director Adam Payne. Commissioner Joe Kresser was absent.

Review of Past Minutes

A motion was made by Angela Wallace to approve the minutes from the September 20th meeting, seconded by Candy DeFillippis. Motion passed.

Correspondence

A newspaper article regarding the vandalism in the park was discussed.

Dawn Higgins was copied on a letter dated September 21st from the Borough Manager to John Burd asking him to remove all the woodchips that were dumped in the park. This has not been completed as of today. Adam Payne will call the DPW and ask them to remove the vegetation near the dumpster.

A letter was received from the Borough Manager regarding the lack of rules and regulations being posted in the park. Adam will look into metal signs for the park and will have the prices by Sunday.

A letter was received from the National Recreation of Trails, which gives a maximum of \$15,000 towards the funding of trails. The application is due December 15th. The Commission decided to wait until next year to apply.

Open Public Session

A motion was made by Angela Wallace, seconded by Candy DeFillippis, to open the Public Session of the meeting at 7:58. Motion passed.

Bill Gleba was in attendance to discuss Little League. Terry Finnegan suggested the maintenance of the field be maintained by the Recreation Commission and the coaches would be responsible for the lining of the fields. Bill said that would be fine, providing the coaches have access to the lyme which is kept in a locked box. The responsibility of the port-a-john was discussed. Terry Finnegan suggested using the money generated by selling signs to pay for the port-a-john. If Little League is paying for the port-a-johns, Dawn Higgins suggested providing port-a-johns that lock and therefore can only be used during Little League practices and/or games. Little League is looking into electrical quotes to have the scoreboard installed. Dawn Higgins will get in touch with Bob Miller to find the best location for the scoreboard. Adam Payne reminded Bill that there needs to be a liaison between Little League and the Park Director regarding scheduling and other issues at the start of the season.

Bill Gleba stated the Little League board members will be changing, and it should be the new members making the decisions for the upcoming season. Bill said someone from Little League will come to a Recreation Commission meeting once the new members are in place, hopefully in November or December.

A motion was made by Rick Feldman, seconded by Terry Finnegan, to close the Public Session of the meeting at 8:22. Motion passed.

Park Director's Report

Adam Payne has been receiving estimates, and it will cost approximately \$1,800 to winterize the pool. The fields will be fertilized after the last soccer game sometime in mid-November. Adam reported that resurfacing has begun at Vara Field.

Graffiti is a problem Adam is dealing with every day. Per Dawn Higgins' request, Adam will call Tom Brennan regarding graffiti removal from metal. In regards to the pavilion, Rick Feldman asked Adam to put the tables and garbage cans into the pool area so they can be locked up for the winter. The tables are getting destroyed by vandals. Terry Finnegan stated the rafters in the pavilion need to be fixed so kids can't climb up there. The grandstand is another area experiencing vandalism. Adam will use blue paint to cover the graffiti in the dugout. Adam suggested putting a lockable gate on the dugouts to prevent vandalism. Terry Finnegan suggested smaller mesh fencing around the pool. Adam will call Rudl Fencing and get estimates on fencing the dugout and pool area. Rick Feldman suggested fencing the entire park.

The Commissioners are in favor of more police presence, which is something that was asked for in the past. Dawn has the Commission's approval to bring this to the attention of the Borough Manager each week if necessary. The Recreation Commission would like the police to be more vigilant in combating vandalism in the park. The Commission suggests the Borough Manager ask the Police Chief to come to a meeting in a month to let them know their progress. The Commission would like to see foot patrol in the park.

Rick would like Adam to supply him with a list of things he can ask Rudy to supply manpower for. He also asked Adam to follow up on the wrought iron railing estimate.

Treasurer's Report

The Appropriation Account Summary report was distributed and discussed. Rick Feldman also gave each Commissioner their appropriate expenditure report for their event or sport. For the next meeting, Rick asked the Commissioners to provide him with 1) what will need to be spent next year; 2) what extra things will be needed, for example, uniforms, balls, etc. and to justify why it is needed; 3) think about general needs as well as own sport or event; and 4) bring concrete ideas and numbers in writing for Rick to provide to the Borough Manager and Council. Terry Finnegan would like to see netting at Boro Park along Route 31. Dawn Higgins requested Adam do an equipment assessment to help with next year's budget.

Commissioner Reports

Soccer

Terry Finnegan stated that the New Jersey Soccer Association had an issue with a disabled child in another town. There is a league rule that states the children can't play at a lower level. The association would like all towns to have it in writing next year that if the child cannot play at their age appropriate level, they should look for another league. Terry disagrees with this. Dawn Higgins will discuss this matter with Attorney Cushing and inquire about the restrictions on a municipality.

Dawn received a phone call about dogs being allowed on the fields during soccer games. Dogs are not allowed on the fields and it is the responsibility of the referee to enforce this rule.

New Business

Voucher Process

Rick Feldman discussed the procedure the referee's of any sport should follow and provided the Commissioners with a sample voucher.

Unfinished Business

Pool Renovation Project Status Update

Terry Finnegan discussed the loan money with the Commissioners. Terry stated the pool project has to be completed by November 28, 2007. An extension can be requested if the project is underway or else the money is forfeited. Terry feels this is a project in grave danger of never being completed. He feels if the project is not started by next fall then perhaps it should be forgotten about. The storm water project just went out to bid. Adam Payne feels the filtration system won't last another year. The Commissioners discussed going back out to bid on the pool project and asking Council to advertise in more papers for more coverage. A motion to go out to bid on the pool project was made by Candy DeFillippis, seconded by Angela Wallace. All Commissioners were in favor with the exception of Rick Feldman.

Pavilion Status Update

Dawn Higgins stated that the driveway has not been backfilled yet and the grading issue has not been addressed. The Commission is dissatisfied with the manner in which the driveway to the pavilion was graded and the lack of backfilling prevents a safety issue. The Commission is concerned about the potential of a lawsuit because of poor workmanship.

Borough Park Stadium Light Status Update

The Commission is unhappy with the lack of information forthcoming concerning the schedule that was to be given to us regarding the light project.

Fall Festival

Dawn Higgins will follow up with the Ladies Auxiliary.

Executive Session

A motion to enter Executive Session at 10:19 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel, real estate, and/or legal matters was made by Angela Wallace, seconded by Candy DeFillippis. Motion passed.

A motion was made to close the Executive Session at 10:40 p.m. by Rick Feldman, seconded by Angela Wallace. Motion passed.

Commission Requests and/or Remarks

Cultural Heritage

Candy DeFillippis went to the grant writing workshop sponsored by the Warren County Cultural and Heritage Commission. Candy would like to have cultural music in the park; possibly one event each month during the summer months.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made at 10:46 p.m. by Candy DeFillippis, seconded by Angela Wallace. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by Ann Kilduff